

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) In a traffic control system for coordinated operation of a plurality of traffic control lights and pedestrian advisory signs having potentially conflicting states; a malfunction management unit having input terminals for receiving control signals used to operate the traffic control lights and pedestrian advisory signs, monitoring means for detecting a conflict between a flashing DON'T WALK input signal and at least one of the other traffic control signals and for generating a conflict signal in response thereto; and an output coupled to said monitoring means for controlling the operation of an output relay used to transfer the operation of the traffic control lights to a flashing mode of operation when a conflict is detected.

2. (currently amended) The ~~invention~~ system of claim 1 wherein said malfunction management unit includes a manually settable switch for enabling and disabling said monitoring means.

3. (currently amended) The ~~invention~~ system of claim 1 wherein said malfunction management unit includes a display for indicating whether said monitoring means is enabled.

4. (currently amended) The ~~invention~~ system of claim 3 wherein said control signals are assigned to channels; and wherein said display includes a plurality of display units assigned to different channels to indicate those channels for which said monitoring means is enabled.

5. (currently amended) A method of monitoring for conflicts between flashing DON'T WALK pedestrian advisory sign control signals and other control signals used to operate traffic control lights, said method comprising the steps of:

(d) (a) detecting a flashing DON'T WALK pedestrian advisory sign control signal;

(e) (b) detecting the states of the other control signals; and

~~(f)~~ (c) generating a ~~fault~~ conflict signal when a conflict occurs between a flashing DON'T WALK signal and at least one of the other control signals.

6. (currently amended) The ~~invention~~ method of claim 5 wherein said pedestrian advisory sign control signals and said other control signals are grouped in a plurality of channels; and wherein said method further includes the step of providing a display of those channels on which said ~~steps (a) and (b)~~ step (c) is enabled.

7. (currently amended) The ~~invention~~ method of claim 5 further including the step of manually enabling the performance of ~~steps (a) and (b)~~ step (c).

8. (new). The system of claim 1 wherein said monitoring means includes delay means for establishing a minimum time period during which a conflict persists between a flashing DON'T WALK input signal and at least one of said other traffic control signals before permitting the generation of said conflict signal.

9. (new) The method of claim 5 wherein said step (c) includes the step of requiring the persistence of the conflict between the flashing DON'T WALK signal and at least one of the other control signals for a minimum time period before generating the conflict signal.

10. (new) The method of claim 5 further including the step of providing a display for indicating whether said step (c) is enabled.